

To the Michigan House Committee, Regulatory Reform Chairman and members:

2-3-14

Every year, more than 2 million people visit Michigan's zoos and aquariums. From young to old, families, school groups, and tourists are all given a first class experience. Many are seeing exotic and unique animals for the first time. What is universally true is that almost none of the people that visit the zoo will ever have the chance to see these animals in the wild or in their indigenous habitats.

Some of the most popular animals to see at the zoo are the large carnivores. They fascinate visitors with their powerful yet graceful movements. They instill awe and respect for the ever amazing animal kingdom.

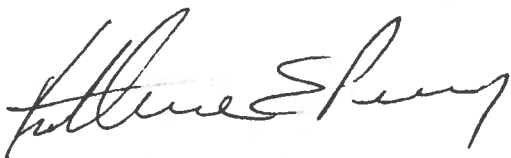
Unfortunately in Michigan, zoo visitors are prohibited by law from seeing the young offspring of the large carnivores currently in our zoos. That's because in Michigan, it is **illegal to breed large carnivores**, even in zoos participating in national and international conservation breeding programs.

In 2000, the Legislature rightly amended the Large Carnivore Act to tighten up safety measures in the act. Unfortunately they mistakenly forgot to include an exemption that would allow accredited zoos to breed large carnivores.

This gap in the law has taken away the ability for our Michigan Zoos to fully participate in programs that will ensure the survival of some of these large carnivore species, protect the purity of their bloodlines, and provide a complete zoo experience that visitors in nearly every other state enjoy. Accredited facilities participating in these scientifically based breeding programs may also lose their large carnivores to zoos in other states if Michigan's laws regarding the breeding of large carnivores in these establishments are not remedied.

We would like your help in correcting this oversight by a previous legislature. Rep. Rob Verheulen from Kent County has Introduced HB5163 that will remedy this situation. His bill would provide fair and prudent standards that if met, would allow a properly managed zoo to participate in a science based cooperative conservation breeding program for large carnivores.

As a member of the House Regulation and Reform Committee, please vote for this bill and assist in its passage in the House.



Katharine E. Perry
127 Kirkpatrick Dr.
Battle Creek, MI 49015

Angie Lake

From: ~~hlynn.8789@juno.com~~
Sent: Saturday, February 1, 2014 9:53 PM
To: Angie Lake

To the Michigan House Committee, Regulatory Reform Chairman and members:

Every year, more than 2 million people visit Michigan's zoos and aquariums. From young to old, families, school groups, and tourists are all given a first class experience. Many are seeing exotic and unique animals for the first time. What is universally true is that almost none of the people that visit the zoo will ever have the chance to see these animals in the wild or in their indigenous habitats.

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Nancy L.Vandelaare
52054 Tonya Dr.
Mendon, MI 49072

Angie Lake

From: Patricia O'Reilly <pat@binderparkzoo.com>
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2014 4:27 PM
To: Angie Lake
Subject: LARGE CARNIVORE ACT

Dear Secretary:

It is most important that the LARGE CARNIVORE ACT be amended to allow accredited zoos to breed large carnivores. There are fewer and fewer of these animals in the wild and if they are to survive zoos must be allowed to breed. This is followed by education and teaching survival of species.

Thank you for your time and concern.

Patricia J. O'Reilly, Volunteer
Binder Park Zoo
Battle Creek MI

Sent from my iPad

Angie Lake

From: Ursula Case <UCase@cfpkcpa.com>
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2014 12:22 PM
To: Angie Lake
Cc: JBarnett@binderparkzoo.org

To the Michigan House Committee, Regulatory Reform Chairman and members:

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Ursula P. Case, CPA
Partner
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Angie Lake

From: Jennifer Costie <~~jen@costie17@hotmail.com~~>
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2014 9:59 AM
To: Angie Lake
Subject: Large Carnivore Act

January 31, 2014

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Sincerely,